

and poor. He had the good, quiet habit of entering freely into the topics that were being discussed, provided they were not controversial, without assuming the monopoly of remark which his age and long and wise experience might be supposed to entitle him to. Generally he was not controversial in his disposition. He cared more to find out points of agreement than points of difference with others. The appearance of easy concession, which perhaps some persons might observe in him, was not founded on an indifference to truth or an indolent intellect; it was rather based on a moral principle, namely, that in social intercourse the main thing is to develop kindly feeling and not to arouse or encourage antagonism of opinion. The holy tone of his conduct and spirit in social circles was ever honoured and appreciated. As an illustration, I may mention one instance which occurred, I think, in the year 1875. Sometimes at the close of the day it was customary in social gatherings to have family worship, and if I happened to be present, he would usually suggest that we should divide it between us. On the occasion referred to, I have a vivid remembrance of the effect of his part of the worship. There was a large party assembled, and the host spoke to Dr. Wilkes about conducting family worship, and he at once said to me, "Now, will you read and I will pray." The worship passed devoutly, tenderly, full of true Christian feeling, causing some of us to feel how blessedly social joys may be blended with the deepest and holiest yearnings after God. At the close of the prayer, and before the guests could fully resume conversation, a gentleman, a French Liberal Catholic, a Q. C., and distinguished throughout Canada for his great abilities, came up to us where we were standing, and said to Dr. Wilkes, "Dr. Wilkes, I must say to you how much I have enjoyed your prayer. I really think that if I lived among such people as you are I should become pious." Knowing the man and his antecedents, so far as religious privileges were concerned, as, also, his daily associations, the candid state-